



New Range Resources letter today
Darlene Sanchez to: Diane Taheri
Cc: Michael McCorkhill, Cary Martindale

02/11/2013 02:14 PM

From: Darlene Sanchez/R6/USEPA/US
To: Diane Taheri/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Michael McCorkhill/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Cary Martindale/R6/USEPA/US@EPA

per your request - here is a copy:



R6-13-000-1867 Mult Citizens - Request Legal Action Against Range Resources.pdf

Darlene
x2778

Clean Water Action Texas * Earthworks * Environment Texas * Environmental Working Group *
GASLAND * Public Citizen Texas * Texas Drought Project

7 February 2013

Ron Curry, Administrator
US EPA Region 6
Fountain Place
1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75202-2750

Dear Administrator Curry:

We, the undersigned organizations and public stakeholders, call on you to resume legal action against Range Resources in a case of apparent water contamination caused by hydraulic fracturing near Fort Worth, Texas. Furthermore, we call on EPA to use its authority to:

- require Range Resources to immediately supply clean drinking water to those homeowners whose existing drinking water EPA has reason to believe Range Resources contaminated;
- publicly post online all existing tests related to this matter; and
- resume testing to ensure that Range Resources acts to remedy the situation.

As a Jan. 16, 2013 Associated Press report detailed (1), the EPA had scientific evidence that Range Resources polluted local residents' well water while drilling for natural gas in 2010. The EPA's evidence led the agency to issue a rare emergency order in late 2010 declaring that the families were in immediate danger. EPA identified contaminants in the families' water, including benzene, and found that "extremely high levels of methane in [the] water pose an imminent and substantial risk of explosion or fire." (2) The EPA filed suit against Range Resources on Jan. 18, 2011, and commissioned an analysis by independent scientist Geoffrey Thyne, which showed that the contamination could have originated in Range Resources' drilling operation.

Despite compelling evidence suggesting that Range Resources contaminated the water, the EPA rescinded the emergency order and ceased all legal action on March 29, 2012, soon after Range Resources protested. The EPA issued only a short, two-sentence explanation for its sudden reversal:

"Resolving the lawsuits with Range allows EPA to shift the Agency's focus in this particular case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction. EPA and Range will share scientific data and conduct further well monitoring in the area, and Range will also provide useful information and access to EPA in support of EPA's scientific inquiry into the potential impacts of energy extraction on drinking water." (3)

The EPA made no mention of Thyne's independent analysis even as the agency came under attack by the drilling industry for its apparent lack of scientific integrity.